GET THE FACTS ON
XYLAZINE

What is xylazine?

Xylazine (Rompun®, Sedazine®, Anased®) is a non-opioid animal sedative and painkiller.

How is xylazine used?

Xylazine is frequently used as a filler in fentanyl, heroin, cocaine and other drugs, sometimes without the user knowing. It is sometimes mixed with fentanyl to make its effects last longer and imitate the "nod," or sleepiness, induced by heroin.

How does xylazine affect the body?

Xylazine causes sleepiness, relieves pain, lowers blood pressure, decreases heart rate and slows down breathing. High doses cause dizziness, vomiting, high blood sugar, blurry vision and can lead to a coma. It is linked to painful sores, severe skin and soft tissue infections, necrosis and limb loss. People using xylazine may be seen wandering aimlessly in a dazed state, stumbling and slipping in and out of consciousness, which is a side effect known as the "zombie walk."

Signs of potential xylazine or opioid overdose:

Slowed, shallow or stopped breathing

Pinpoint pupils

Unresponsive or becomes less alert

Purple or blue lips or fingernails

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Xylazine and naloxone:

Remember that substances are frequently mixed with opioids. If you think someone has overdosed on xylazine or opioids, give them naloxone, call 911 and give them rescue breaths. It is safe to give naloxone even if you are not sure if it is an opioid overdose. Naloxone only works for opioid overdoses, so *it will not hurt someone who is not experiencing an overdose.*

Safety tips:

- Never use alone
- Carry naloxone*
- Use in a safe, clean location
- Use new injection equipment
- Wash your hands and injection sites before using
- Keep all sores clean and covered, and see a doctor for sores that do not heal

How to help someone who has overdosed:

- Call 911 immediately
- Give naloxone*
- Give rescue breaths

*Naloxone does not stop an overdose of xylazine, but an overdose may happen after mixing drugs. *Naloxone will reverse the effects of opioids.*

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AnaSed® is a registered trademark of Vet-A-Mix, Inc.

Health or substance use disorders services:

- Community Health Centers: MO-PCA.org/find-a-health-center
- SUD Treatment Centers: NoMoDeaths.com/get-treatment

For more information, visit:

- StaySafe: MoStaysSafe.com
- NoMO Deaths: NoMoDeaths.com

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